

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Herman & Kittle Properties, Inc. Donates Park Land on City's South Side

INDIANAPOLIS – Earlier today at a ceremony in Decatur Township, local developer Herman & Kittle Properties, Inc., signed over the deed to an undeveloped southwest side property to Indy Parks and Recreation.

The agreement, which was approved by the Parks Board at its April 27 meeting, adds 17.83 acres of greenspace to Indy Parks' inventory, totaling more than 10,800 acres throughout Marion County.

"Herman & Kittle Properties is proud to donate this land to Indy Parks and Recreation," said Thomas E. Herman, President, Herman & Kittle Properties, Inc. "We are pleased and fortunate to have worked with the City to provide high quality, affordable housing and dedicate nearly 18 acres for recreation and park use that will be a benefit to the community."

Developer land donations such as this represent one way the City has been able to grow its park land inventory in spite of the budget shortfall it's facing. Under Mayor Bart Peterson's leadership, more than 600 acres of park land in Indianapolis-Marion County have been added through a variety of acquisition strategies.

"Today's park land donation by Herman & Kittle Properties illustrates a commitment toward balancing land development with land preservation, both of which are essential for a world class city," said Deputy Mayor Steve Campbell. "The land set aside today will continue to serve Decatur Township residents for generations to come."

The Decatur Township Civic Council's Land Use Committee was instrumental in working with Herman & Kittle Properties to secure the donation.

"It is wonderful for the gift of property in Decatur Township to be committed as a Park," said Sue Ellen Collins, member of the Decatur Township Civic Council's Land Use Committee. "Obtaining land for parks is a once in a life time event; for it is through the efforts of those drawn together that this rich and natural environment will provide physical, social, emotional and spiritual well being for all."

The property — primarily wooded — is bordered by Lynhurst Drive to the west, a Herman & Kittle Properties, Inc. residential development to the north, Lynwood Elementary School to the east, and an undeveloped 22-acre property to the south. Future plans for the land have yet to be determined. Any long term development will follow Indy Parks' park master planning process, which is coordinated by the department's resource development staff and requires extensive community input. A name for the future park has not been established.

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